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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,929	08/27/2003	Yoshinobu Mukai	13425.39US01	4112
7590	10/19/2005		EXAMINER	
HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON P.C.			ARTHUR JEANGLAUME, GERTRUDE	
P.O. Box 2902-0902			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Minneapolis, MN 55402			3661	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/648,929	MUKAI ET AL.
	Examiner Gertrude Arthur-Jeanglaude	Art Unit 3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 7 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamo et al. (US 6,665,598) and Tamai (US 5,608,635) in view of Yasuda (US 6,594,569).

Nakano et al. discloses a system of informing procedures for adjusting control parameters of an electric power steering control apparatus. According to Nakano et al, the control device or controller comprises a memory accommodated in the electric power steering control device mounted on a vehicle (figure 1), and which permits rewrite and storage of data (abstract), wherein transmitting a signal from an external of the vehicle allows the data stored in the memory to be rewritten (figures 1, 13, column 1, lines 27-31, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 3, line 63-col. 4, line 5, col. 7, line 61-col. 8, line 31). See also columns 10-12. As described in columns 4-6, Nakano et al discloses a ROM which stores a plurality of map data, wherein the memory stores label information corresponding to one of the plurality of map data, followed by selection of the one map data in the ROM based on this label information to be read out, and wherein an assist steering force is controlled based on the selected map data. See also columns 9-10.

Furthermore, according to Nakano et al, the memory stores a set of constants or mathematical expression data, which is used for the electric power steering control device and is inherent in an individual specification. See also page 4 and, in particular, page 5. However, Nakano et al does not particularly disclose reading out of the data at a start-up of the electric power steering device. Yasuda, on the other hand, discloses, a device and method for setting steering characteristics of electric power steering. As depicted in figures 2 and 6, Yasuda discloses the data stored in the memory is read out at a start-up of the electric power steering control device, and wherein an assist steering force is controlled based on this data. See also columns 4-6. Yasuda discloses a plurality of keys (labels) representing different map data (column 1). Also in columns 4-6, Yasuda et al discloses a plurality of map data, wherein the memory stores label information corresponding to one of the plurality of map data, wherein the label information is read out at a start-up of the electric power steering control device, followed by selection of the one map data in the ROM based on this label information to be read out, and wherein an assist steering force is controlled based on the selected map data. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to modify the electric power steering apparatus of Nakano et al by incorporating the features from the electric power steering device of Yasuda because such modification, as suggested by Yasuda, would realize different steering satisfactory levels, thereby improving driving conditions. Yasuda further discloses that the steering characteristics can be installed in other vehicle-mounted products such as a car navigation (See col. 7, lines 18-22) but fail to specifically disclose that the storing a

plurality of map data for a plurality of different vehicles. In an analogous art, Tamai discloses a navigation system for a vehicle wherein it discloses storing a plurality of map data for different vehicles (See col. 2, lines 16-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Nakano et al. with that of Yasuda and Tamai by storing a plurality of map data for different vehicles in order to provide route guidance for the vehicles.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gertrude Arthur-Jeanglaude whose telephone number is (571) 272-6954. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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October 16, 2005

Gertrude A. Langlande
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PRIMARY EXAMINER